

## UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA

**NEWPORT NEWS** 

**NORFOLK** 

RICHMOND

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## TASK FORCE TARGETS GILPIN COURT CRIMINALS

(**Richmond, VA**) – A task force comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies executed five search warrants and arrested numerous individuals this morning in an operation aimed at addressing the chronic drug trade and accompanying violence plaguing the Gilpin Court housing project in Richmond. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Robert Gwaltney, Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Resident Office; Colonel Steve Flaherty, Virginia State Police; Chief Rodney Monroe, Richmond Police Department; and Hal Hazelton, Public Safety Chief, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, announced the operation this afternoon at a press conference.

As of this afternoon, 14 individuals had been charged with federal narcotics violations and eight were in custody. They are:

Wesley Berry, age 20 Troy Brockenbrough, age 21 Craig Bullock, age 44 Jermaine Lambert, age 22 Lorenzo Stephens, age 23 Kearney Womack, age 25 Keion Hicks, age 21 Deborah M. Jones, age 44

Officials at the press conference announced a reward for information leading to the arrest of six remaining fugitives:

Victor Bassett, age 42 Everette Bolling, age 22 Cory Brockenbrough, age 21 Osmund Green, age 24 Ron Rhone, age 27 Antonio Taylor, age 23

Individuals having any information concerning these fugitives should contact Richmond Crime Stoppers at 780-1000.

In announcing the operation, U.S. Attorney Rosenberg stated, "We are here today to reaffirm our commitment to locking up the criminals who prey on the good, law abiding citizens of Gilpin Court and the City of Richmond. We are here, and we are coming after you."

Richmond Police Chief Rodney D. Monroe added, "We will continue to work with our state and federal partners to take those individuals off the streets who sell drugs or engage in violence in the City of Richmond."

Today's operation was conducted by the Richmond Area Violence Enterprise (RAVE), comprised of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virginia State Police, and the Richmond Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Roderick C. Young is prosecuting the cases for the United States Attorney's Office.

Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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